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FRANK L. HOOBS.....MANAGER

TUESDAY.....JANUARY 24, 1905

## The Poet Of The Hearthstone

The coming celebration in honor of the memory of Robert Burns will serve to remind many people that it is not distinctively a Scottish poet that the bard deserves to be remembered. Burns was a poet for all peoples and for all times. Nurtured in poverty if not in actual want, brought up as a tiller of the fields and dying a broken hearted man long before his time, Robert Burns nevertheless lives today in the hearts of thousands upon thousands of people who are far from being of his kin. He was a man of the soil and in his wonderful works ever touched on the homely things of life and, touching them, illumined them with the great light of his genius.

"Dickens wrote for homes," said a recent essayist. "Thackeray for clubs. Byron did not care for the fireside, for the prattle of babes, for the smiles and tears of humble life. He was touched by grandeur rather than goodness, loved storm and crag and the wild sea, but Burns lived in the valley, touched by the joys and griefs of lowly lives."

On January 25 in the year 1759 Robert Burns was born near the little town of Ayr and thirty-seven years later he died, died in want of a few miserable shillings, but he left such a priceless heritage to humanity in his works that it seems difficult to realize now how such a man could have been so neglected. Had Burns left but the one poem, "A Man's a Man For a' That," that poem alone would have entitled his name in letters of gold, to a place high on the walls of the Temple of Fame. Every word of it rings with the sturdy independence of the man and it's sense is as sound now as it was in the day when Burns penned it, changed though conditions may be.

"A prince can make a belted knight  
A marquis, duke and a' that;  
But an honest man's aboon his might,  
Guid faith he mauna fa' that.  
For a' that, and a' that  
Their dignities, an' a' that  
The pith o' sense and pride o' worth  
Are higher ranks than a' that.  
"Then let us pray that come it may  
As come it will for a' that  
That sense and worth o'er a' the earth  
May bear the gree, and a' that.  
For a' that and a' that;  
It's coming yet for a' that  
That man to man, the world o'er  
Shall brethren be for a' that."

Possibly men the world o'er are yet a long way from being brothers but there can be no gainsaying the fact that vast strides towards a proper understanding of relative conditions have been made since the time of Burns. Perhaps too it might not be too much to claim a share in the change of sentiment for the humble poet whose words cannot fail to convince every person who reads them and to remain firmly fixed in the memory.

As long as men and women live and love, as long as the word home endures in the English language, so long will Burns be remembered. Scotch he was it is true, but today all the world claims him and can make good its claim.

## Work Of Dawes Commission

When the Dawes Commission shall have concluded its work, as it expects to do by the end of the current fiscal year, it will have been engaged upon its task for seven years. It will then have to its credit the administration of communal estates amounting to 20,000,000 acres of land, and valued at perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars, at a cost of less than ten cents an acre. More than 120,000 adults or heads of families have been personally examined since June 28, 1898, and their previous tribal record looked up, and of these about 90,000 will be finally adjudged to possess tribal membership and property rights.

The Dawes Commission was so called from the man who was at the head of the commission when it was first organized. It was created under an act of congress to allot in severalty, to those who should be entitled to it, the lands held under tribal tenure by the civilized tribes of Indians in the Indian Territory. This work included an accurate survey of the lands and their classification according to their character and value, and a determination of the individuals who composed the tribes and were entitled to share in the allotment of these lands. This determination was not always an easy matter. White men had intermarried with Indians, the result being a class of half-breeds and mixed breeds. The white men themselves who thus intermarried, are known as "squaw-men," a term in which there is a certain amount of contempt in the region where it originated and where it is used colloquially. But still, the men to whom it is applied can perhaps console themselves with the fine quarter sections of farming land which the Dawes commission is allotting to them by reason of the fact that they are "squaw-men."

There has been and will continue to be much speculation as to the effect on the Indians themselves of this allotment of land in severalty. Heretofore the land has been held tribally. The title to it was in the tribe. The individual had the use of what he needed, but he could not sell. If it was leased to others than members of the tribe, the rentals went to the tribe. Thus every Indian was assured of land for his use and occupation as long as he lived, and of his share in the tribal income.

Under the allotment system, he will get his share of the tribal lands in severalty. He can sell or mortgage it. He may part with it or lose it. But when it is gone he will be like any other landless individual.

The process is not altogether unlike the Great Division of lands which took place in Hawaii in 1848, and was carried out by the Land Commission.

This process of reducing the tribal lands of the so-called civilized tribes of Indians, to land in severalty, is preliminary to the Indian assuming the full status of American citizenship. This status is expected to be assumed on the Fourth of March next year, and the bill now before congress to create Oklahoma and the Indian Territory into a state, provides that the state so organized shall be admitted into the Union on that date.

## The Ship Subsidy Legislation

That there will probably be no ship subsidy legislation at a very early date is the opinion of so well informed and so conservative a journal as "Bradstreet's." Writing on the subject that journal says: The question of subsidies for shipping has been brought before Congress by the report of the majority of the Merchant Marine Commission, which embodies a bill providing for the increase of tonnage taxes on domestic and foreign vessels, coupled with the payment of rebates to American ships, for subsidies for carrying mails, the creation of a naval volunteer service, and the encouragement of apprentices on ships engaged in foreign trade. The minority of the commission have

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submitted a report in which the policy of discriminating duties is advocated. The minority hold that there are objections to the entire bill agreed on by the majority, but they withhold opposition except as to the sections which provide for direct subsidies. The policy embodied in these sections is declared to be obnoxious to democratic principles and to the economic sense of the country. In regard to the chances of the bill in Congress, it can only be said at present that its advocates hardly count upon its passage at the existing session. They believe that the discussion which it will evoke will make friends for it, but the history of proposed subsidy legislation in the recent past has been too checkered to prompt auguries of a very confident character.

Mayor McClellan of New York city is one of those who do not believe that the government should engage in any service which can be done better or as well by private enterprise, or should invade business fields in competition with the legitimate trade of the citizen. For this reason, and because of his general conservative attitude in relation to matters of public concern, much attention has been attracted by the declaration in his annual message in favor of the ownership and operation by the municipality of an electric lighting plant to illuminate the streets, parks and public buildings of the city. Where the service rendered by private corporations is unsatisfactory, either because of its inferiority or of its excessive cost, it becomes, the mayor says, the province of government to take control of that utility for its own uses. The right of the city to establish a municipal lighting plant is sustained by distinguished legal opinion, and a commission has been appointed to prepare plans and estimates of the cost of installation. The advocacy of this departure is the feature of the mayor's message this year.

Either the Republican members of the Wisconsin legislature must be very early risers or very late in arriving at caucus conclusions, or else the Advertiser must be getting its dates mixed. In this morning's issue, under date of January 24 it says that Governor La Follette "was today nominated for United States Senator by the Republican legislative caucus." The probabilities are that this interesting event happened yesterday afternoon or evening.

What chance would the county act boomer have under a colonial form of government?

The nomination of Governor La Follette to be United States Senator from Wisconsin, and his election, which is morally certain to follow, will not add to the reputation as a reforming statesman which he has made by the fight he has carried on within his own party for ten years. In the first place the reforms for which he has been fighting have not yet been crystallized into law,

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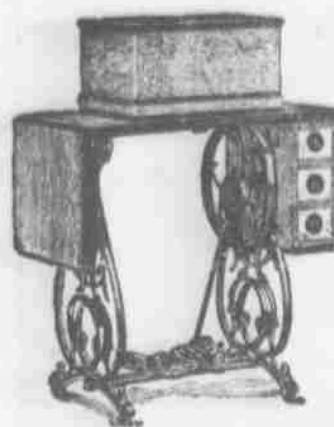
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and until they are, the fight cannot be said to have been won. There will be a feeling among those who have approved his course in the past that the senatorial toga has been too much of a temptation for him and that he has deserted the cause for which he has fought so long at the very time when it needed him in the governor's chair to guide and direct the legislation that has so often been defeated or deferred, and which may now suffer the same fate again. There will be a feeling that the place for him at the present time is in the state where the fight is still going on, and not in the senate where the fight cannot be fought. It is strange what a change in the estimate of the relative importance of the office of governor and senator has come over public opinion since the early days of the Republic. In the early days men resigned as United States senator to become governor of their state. In these days men resign as governor to become senator. Indeed, in many cases men have sought the governorship merely as a stepping stone to the senate.

People who followed the course of the trial of Geneau for the killing of the negro "Useless" Harris will congratulate the jury on its finding, for while public sentiment was unquestionably in favor of the complete acquittal of the accused Master-at-Arms, it is as well that the taking of even so useless a life as that of Harris should not be passed as a trivial matter. With the strong recommendation to mercy made by the jury, the consideration that Geneau has already spent six months in prison will unquestionably weigh with the court in determining the sentence so that it is to be hoped that in a very short time Geneau will be able to return to the navy and win back the reputation he had so well sustained in times of both peace and war.

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